

DRUPELLA THIELE, 1925 (GASTROPODA): PROPOSED  
DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS.  
Z.N.(S.) 1891

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Thiele (1925, p. 171) established the genus *Drupella* for a group of Thaidine species in the family Muricidae. The four originally included species comprised *Purpura elata* Blainville, 1832, *Ricinula spectrum* Reeve, 1846, *Sistrum ochrostoma* (Blainville, 1832) and *Ricinula siderea* Reeve, 1846, but Thiele failed to select a type-species for his new genus *Drupella*.

2. The earliest subsequent type-designation is that by v. Ihering and Haas (1927, p. 215). In a review of Thiele's 1925 publication, the authors designated *Ricinula siderea* Reeve, as the type-species of *Drupella*.

3. The application for setting aside v. Ihering and Haas' type designation is based on the grounds of misidentification of the type-species by Thiele. The dentition figured by Thiele (*loc. cit.*, p. 171, text-fig. 3) for "*Ricinula siderea* Reeve", is the radula of the muricid species *Drupa cornus* Röding, 1798, whereas the true *Ricinula siderea* Reeve, not only belongs to a different genus but also a different family. Tryon (1880, p. 190), correctly pointed out that *Ricinula siderea* Reeve appears to belong to the Columbelloidea and not the Muricidae. Personal examination of the three syntypes of *Ricinula siderea* Reeve, in the British Museum (Natural History), London, confirmed Tryon's suspicion of the species being actually a columbellid. The largest syntype (12.8 × 6.4 mm. = length × width) and the two smaller syntypes of *Ricinula siderea* Reeve, are a species of the genus *Pyrene* Röding, 1798, in the family Columbelloidea.

4. If v. Ihering and Haas' type-designation were allowed to stand, *Drupella* Thiele would disappear in the synonymy of *Pyrene* Röding in the family Columbelloidea, and the creation of a new genus for the muricid *Drupella*-group of species would be inevitable in view of the absence of available synonyms. From the species originally included in *Drupella*, in conjunction with the illustrated dentition of two of the species, it is quite clear that *Drupella* was meant for a genus-group in the Muricidae and not Columbelloidea.

5. In the best interests of nomenclatorial stability and conforming to Article 70 (a) of the Code, it would be most appropriate to set aside v. Ihering and Haas' type-designation and select *Purpura ochrostoma* Blainville, 1832 (p. 205), as the type-species of *Drupella* Thiele. The latter species is one of the originally included species, has been cited by Thiele (1929, p. 295) as a representative species of *Drupella*, the dentition is of the *Drupella* pattern and the taxon is in current use in malacological literature for a widely distributed tropical Indo-Pacific species. The other two species included by Thiele in *Drupella*, apart from *Ricinula siderea* Reeve, are *Purpura elata* Blainville, 1832 and *Ricinula spectrum* Reeve, 1846; both these species are synonyms of *Drupa cornus* Röding, 1798.

6. In the interests of nomenclatorial stability and to obviate the need for a new genus-group name, the International Commission on Zoological Nomen-

clature is requested under the status of Article 70 (a) of the Code:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type-species for the genus *Drupella* Thiele, 1925, made prior to the present Ruling and, having done so, to designate *Purpura ochrostoma* Blainville, 1832, as type-species of *Drupella* Thiele, 1925;
- (2) to place the generic name *Drupella* Thiele, 1925 (gender : feminine), type-species by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Purpura ochrostoma* Blainville, 1832, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *ochrostoma* Blainville, 1832, as published in the binomen *Purpura ochrostoma* (type-species of *Drupella* Thiele, 1925) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

#### REFERENCES

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